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Report

Special Group in Coaching Psychology News

Dasha Grajfoner

ON BEHALF OF THE Special Group in Coaching Psychology Committee I would like to wish you all a prosperous, content and healthy 2016. As I am entering my second year in the role of Chair of the SGCP I would like to say hello to our members, who have been a part of our Group for some time and a warm welcome those who have recently joined us.

In the time of writing our 5th European Coaching Psychology Conference in December is still very much on my mind. The event was diverse in terms of topics and speakers. We had participants and speakers from more than 20 different countries and from diverse backgrounds – psychologists and non-psychologists. A big thank you to everyone who helped shaping the event and to all participants who attended and made it great success. We strived to design the conference around our strategic plan and the preferences our members expressed in the last survey.

To begin with I must mention our thought-provoking and inspiring keynotes. Dr Helen Turnbull, who came all the way from Florida, spoke about stereotyping, inclusion and diversity at workplace. Her views on unconscious biases resonated with many practitioners who work in organisations and in private practice. Roger Steare, co-author of *Moral DNA*, highlighted a number of value based issues that are relevant for both leadership and coaching. Donna Willis summarised the highlights of the first day and welcomed our new delegates on day two. Dr Suzy Green, the founder of The Positivity Institute, spoke about the integration of positive and coaching psychology. Her projects on application of positive psychology in schools demonstrate the benefits of flourish-



ing as a part of educational process. Last, but not least, keynote speaker Dr Tatiana Bachkirova gave a challenging talk on coaching and self identity and masterfully highlighted the elements of professional identity that we must consider when planning and developing research, training and practice of coaching psychology.

The conference round tables and streams reflected the SGCP strategic plan and the areas of priority for the next five years. Last year I wrote about inclusivity within the SGCP and our diverse membership, our collaborations with other BPS Branches and, of course, inclusivity and collaborations with other professional coaching bodies. At the Conference we held the BPS Chairs meeting, very valuable round table of the past SGCP Chairs, where we looked at the vision and contributions of individual past Chairs. We also had a fascinating round-table discussion on collaborations between different coaching bodies, with representatives from ICF, AC, ISCP and SGCP amongst others.

By popular demand we had four streams: Leadership, business and executive coaching psychology stream; Positive psychology coaching stream; practice oriented Tools and techniques in coaching psychology; and finally scientist practitioner stream Learning in action. The latter stream included Coaching Psychology Research Network meeting to highlight recent current research developments in coaching psychology and our plans to strengthen this part of the SGCP activities.

It was my pleasure to present the 2015 Award for distinguished contribution to coaching psychology, which went to our colleague Margaret Macafee for her work with Peer Practice groups. Watch the space for more information on Margaret's future plans.

Finally, on behalf of the SGCP Committee I must again express my gratitude to both, now past, editors Dr Siobhain O'Riordan and Professor Stephen Palmer for their stellar contributions and efforts they have invested in *The Coaching Psychologist* and the *International Coaching Psychology Review* respectively. Their work, over the years, has strengthen and prepared both publications for the exciting challenges ahead in the next decade.

Dr Dasha Grajfoner

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Coaching Psychology
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